Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A substantially uncharged antisense oligomer containing from 10 to 40 morpholino subunits, each of said subunits supporting a base-pairing moiety effective to bind by Watson-Crick base pairing to a respective nucleotide base,

wherein said base-pairing moieties include a targeting nucleic acid sequence at least 10 nucleotides in length which is effective to specifically hybridize to a target sequence which spans the translational start codon for secA protein within the *E. coli* nucleic acid sequence presented as SEQ ID NO: 2,

and wherein adjacent subunits are joined by uncharged linkages selected from the group consisting of uncharged phosphoramidate and phosphorodiamidate, or by charged linkages selected from the group consisting of charged phosphoramidate and phosphorodiamidate, the ratio of uncharged linkages to charged linkages in the oligomer being at least 4:1.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously presented) The oligomer of claim 1, wherein each said uncharged linkage is a phosphorodiamidate linkage as represented by $-P(=O)(NR_2)-O-$, where R is hydrogen or methyl.

5. (Previously presented) The oligomer of claim 4, wherein each said linkage in said oligomer is an uncharged phosphorodiamidate linkage as represented by $-P(=O)(NR_2)-O-$, where R is hydrogen or methyl.

6. (Previously presented) The oligomer of claim 1, wherein the targeting nucleic acid sequence has a length of 10 to 20 bases.

7-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously presented) The oligomer of claim 1, wherein the targeting sequence has the sequence presented as SEQ ID NO: 47 (*E. coli secA*).

14-41. (Cancelled)